

Because of its unique space requirements, Special Services is located in a building separate from the State Library at 1314 Dale Street. The North Carolina Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is the only library of its kind in the state. It provides books and magazines for anyone who, because of a visual or other physical disability, is unable to read or hold a standard print book. As the "public library" for blind and physically handicapped North Carolinians, books in various formats—large print or "talking books" recorded on records or cassette tapes—are provided.

The Regional Library is a cooperative effort of the State Library, which provides the facility and staff, the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, which provides materials and equipment, and the U. S. Postal Service, free mailing privileges for materials.

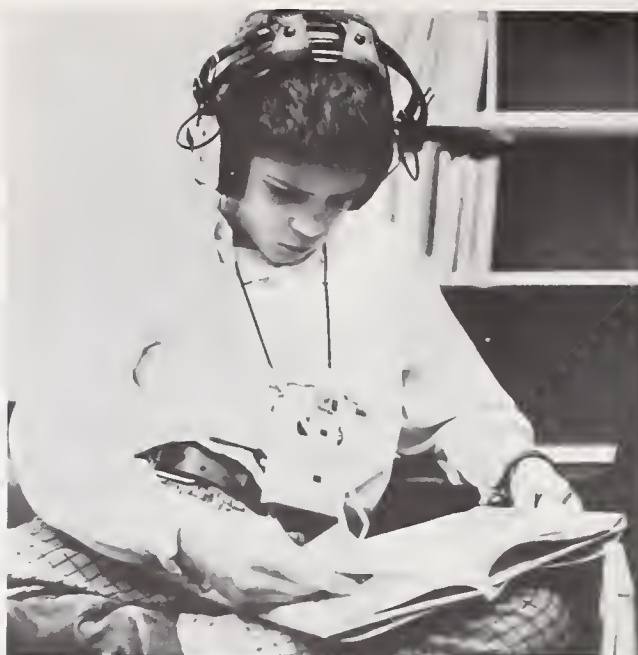
"Talking book machines," specially adapted record players and cassette players, are loaned to individuals using the services of this "mail order" library. Records are maintained of items borrowed for each user, who may select titles from catalogs and a bi-monthly newsletter available in large print, braille or on cassette tape.

In addition to circulating materials and providing readers advisory service, the Regional Library, with volunteer help, produces some of its own books and magazines of special interest to North Carolina readers in braille and on tape.

Two In-WATS lines are available for finding out more about these services. Call toll free from any place in North Carolina by dialing your access code and 800-662-7726.

To develop library services to the institutionalized, Special Services employs two consultants to work with prisons, training schools, alcoholic rehabilitation centers, schools for the deaf and blind, centers for the mentally retarded, and mental, orthopedic and specialty hospitals. One consultant specializes in services to adults; the other, services to juveniles.

The consultants assist administrators in planning libraries for new institutions, develop services and improve collections, help recruit personnel, provide inservice training to institutional library staff, and channel state and federal grants to institutional libraries. They also assist public library staff in planning library services to local institutions.



A young reader at the Central North Carolina School for the Deaf in Greensboro enjoys a book in the library which is under the direction of the Special Services Section of the State Library.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

A library of any type cannot operate efficiently without attention to the details involved in acquiring, cataloging, classifying and processing materials.

The Acquisitions Branch orders more than 5,000 books and hundreds of magazines, newspapers and microforms each year; handles the binding of more than 1,000 books a year; and maintains statistical records of materials for use by professional staff in building and maintaining strong representative collections.

Books and other materials must be cataloged (entered into a catalog which records, describes and indexes a library's holdings) and classified (assigned to a specific location by "call number" in a system of classification such as the Dewey Decimal system) in order to be accessible. Catalog cards, in describing the book, allow access either by author, title or subject.

The Cataloging Branch, in carrying out the above functions, plugs into the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), an electronic data processing network of libraries in 10 southeastern states. Cataloging information obtained from the regional data based through computer terminals is used to produce catalog cards filed in the main